METHODS FOR ADMITTING CONFERENCE CALL HOSTS AND PARTICIPANTS INTO

NEW OR EXISTING CONFERENCE CALLS

ABSTRACT

Methods for entering hosts and participants into new or existing conference calls. The

5   method can include receiving a call from a given caller at a VRU. The caller may be either a

conference host or participant. The VRU obtains a conference code from the caller and forwards

it to a proxy server, along with a request to the proxy server to enter the given caller into a

conference call.   The proxy server determines that the request from the VRU relates to

conferencing services, and forwards the request from the VRU to a conference management

10   system (CMS). The CMS determines whether the given caller is a conference host or a

participant, and determines whether a participant has called in before the given caller and has

provided a conference code that is related to the conference code entered by the given caller.

Depending on the circumstances, the CMS can request either that a new conference be created

relating to the conference code as entered by the given caller, or that the caller be entered into an

15   existing conference. If a new conference is being created, it is assigned to one of a plurality of

mixers, and a unique identifier is generated for the new conference and provided to the mixer

and the VRU. A mixer identifier that uniquely identifies the mixer hosting the conference is

provided to the VRU.   A data store is loaded with the conference code, the unique identifier for

the new conference, and the mixer identifier, and the VRU and the mixer are placed in audio

20   communication to place the caller in the conference.

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